

Former General Sees Collusion With the Reds

By Julius Ducha
Staff Reporter

Edwin A. Walker declared yesterday that he was a "scapegoat" of an "unwritten" American policy of "collaboration and collusion with the international Communist conspiracy."

The former major general told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee that "our armed forces are paralyzed by our national policy of 'no win' and retreat from victory."

He also said that "iniquities" committed by Government of-

General Walker proves inarticulate spokesman at hearings. Page A4.

ficials had led the United States to "dire peril."

Communists, Walker added, have "infiltrated this country in every profession."

When asked to identify the persons who made him a scapegoat and are endangering the country Walker named Adam Yarmolinsky, a special assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and Arthur G. Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Walker was also asked whether he included McNamara in the group of what he called conspirators.

The former general never answered the question directly, but he did say that McNamara was responsible for allowing "this kind of thinking" to be followed by Yarmolinsky and Sylvester.

Walker, who resigned from the Army last November after he was admonished for allegedly seeking to influence the votes of soldiers and is a candidate for governor in the Democratic primary in Texas, testified for more than six hours.

His long-awaited appearance before the subcommittee, which is investigating charges of military "muzzling," filled the Senate caucus room with spectators.

A trim, taciturn man, Walker took more than an hour to read a 31-page prepared statement. Then, in measured, often halting tones, he answered questions

through the afternoon and into the evening.

Walker's hands shook as he began his testimony and he nervously smoked cigarettes as he answered questions. Many of his answers took five to ten minutes and frequently were rambling.

Seated beside him at the witness table were his lawyer, Clyde J. Watts of Oklahoma City, a retired Army general, and Medford Evans of Dallas, who described himself as a consultant to Walker.

Watts and Evans frequently conferred with Walker before he answered questions and at times handed him comments which they hurriedly wrote out on file cards and sheets of yellow lined paper.

Throughout his testimony Walker continually came back to two basic points:

- The United States has a "no-win" foreign policy which has been dictated by a conspiracy of public officials and other influential Americans.

- He was treated unfairly in the investigation of the charges made against him when he was an Army commander in Germany.

Walker defended all his activities, maintaining throughout his testimony that he was merely seeking to carry out established Army policies to train men to know their enemy.

"With this Nation's survival at stake," he declared, his deep, resonant voice rising in anger, "our armed forces are paralyzed by our national policy of 'no win' and retreat from victory."

"I, myself, am a victim of the 'no win' policy," he added. "I was charged with nothing, have been found guilty of

nothing, I have been punished for nothing."

He went on to say that as a result of the investigation of his activities "there is today no effective program of psychological warfare training in the United States armed services."

"The traditional civilian control of the military," he asserted, "has been perverted and extended into a commissar-like system of control at all major echelons of command."

"Our will to resist communism is fast being sapped behind this unprecedented

move to undermine our military that they port collusion, are whose actions and security of our country."

Sen. Stuart W. Symington (D-Mo.) questioned Walker closely about the person he had in mind, but the for-

general mentioned only Yarmolinsky and Sylvester.

Sylvester's name has frequently come up in the subcommittee investigation. He testified early in the hearing which began the "Yarmolinsky Critique of Pentagon efforts to censor speeches by the military have blamed Sylvester for a more rigid censorship policy."

In amplifying his remarks about Sylvester, Walker said that Sylvester used to work for the Newark Evening News, which, the former General added, has criticized the House Un-American Activities Committee, the Senate Internal Security subcommittee and the FBI. Sylvester is a former Washington correspondent for the Newark paper.

This is the first time Yarmolinsky's name has figured in the hearings. He helped recruit talent for the Kennedy Administration and also aided in the establishment of the new civil defense program in the Pentagon.

In answer to a question from Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S. C.) Walker said that Yarmolinsky's "connection with the Communists has certainly been close and his activities have certainly aided communism."

Walker said that Yarmolinsky had admitted attending meetings of the Young Communist League as a guest, but had never been a member.

Yarmolinsky told The Washington Post that he "had nothing to do with the Walker case" and that his "entire public record points in the opposite direction" from communism.

Other questioning by Symington showed that Walker had not read a book which he had denounced in his prepared statement for encouraging coexistence with communism.

The book is, "What You Should Know About Communism" by Henry and Bernice Overstreet.

Symington noted that both he and his wife had read the book and found it to be a valuable discussion of communism.

the book, Walker said, "My knowledge of the book is hearsay, sir. I have not read it."

He promised Symington that he would read it.

Nearly all of Walker's lengthy prepared statement was devoted to a resume of the charges made against him in the Overseas Weekly, a private publication distributed to American servicemen overseas, and the way the Defense Department handled the charges against him.

Walker was particularly bitter in his comments about the Overseas Weekly, which he said was "subversive" as well as "immoral, unscrupulous, corrupt and destructive."

In defending his recommendation to his troops in October, 1960, that they consult a voting

guide published by the right-wing Americans for Constitutional Action, Walker noted that he had sent a copy of the guide to Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, who is now Army Chief of Staff.

Lemnitzer told him, Walker said, that the guide was "most interesting and useful."

Walker will return to the witness stand at 10 a. m. today for further questioning. The hearing will be in the Sen. Caucus Room.

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